



STATE OF MICHIGAN

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT & BUDGET
LANSING

JOHN E. NIXON, CPA
DIRECTOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: April 4, 2013

Contact: Kurt Weiss, 517-335-0050

February Unemployment Rates Little Changed in Michigan's Regional Labor Markets

Lansing – Seasonally unadjusted unemployment rates displayed only modest changes in most of Michigan's 17 major labor market areas in February, according to the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget. Total employment levels increased in all regions over the month, while labor force levels advanced in nearly all regions.

"Michigan's local labor markets were very stable in February," said Rick Waclawek, director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information & Strategic Initiatives. "Changes to area job totals over the month were mostly seasonal, with the public and private education sectors recalling workers following the holiday break."

From January to February, regional jobless rate changes were marginal and limited to plus or minus 0.2 of a percentage point in 14 of the 17 areas. Unemployment rates edged up slightly in seven regions, declined slightly in six areas, and were unchanged in the remaining four. The largest rate reduction was posted in the Detroit-Warren-Livonia Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), with a rate drop of 1.1 percentage points. The next largest rate cut of 0.7 of a percentage point was registered in the Monroe MSA. The most pronounced jobless rate increase in February of a half percentage point was recorded in the Northeast Lower Michigan region.

Jobless Rates Down Over Year

From February 2012 to February 2013, unemployment rates fell in all 17 regional labor market areas in the state. Most declines were not significant, with only six regions displaying drops over a half percentage point. Jobless rate declines over the year ranged from 0.1 of a percentage point in the Bay City MSA to 0.9 of a percentage point in both the Holland-Grand Haven and Grand Rapids-Wyoming MSAs.

Total Employment Up Over Month, Mixed Over Year

Over the month, total employment rose in all 17 regions with a median gain of 1.2 percent. The most modest employment hikes over the month occurred in both the Northeast and Northwest Lower Michigan regions, with employment edging up by 0.1 and 0.2 percent respectively. The largest total employment gains in February took place in both the Kalamazoo-Portage and Lansing-East Lansing MSAs, with a 2.3 percent advance each.

Since February 2012, total employment changes were mixed. Nine regions reported total employment increases, which averaged 1.1 percent, and eight areas recorded declines averaging 0.8 percent.

Note: Employment, unemployment and industry job data for all 12 months of 2012 have been recently revised. Estimates for January and February 2013 are not comparable to previously released data. For newly revised 2012 estimates, go to www.michigan.gov/lmi or call 313-456-3090.

(more)

Labor Force Levels Up Over Month, Down Over Year

In February, labor force levels advanced in 16 areas, showing a median increase of 1.1 percent. The workforce level in the Detroit-Warren-Livonia MSA was essentially unchanged over the month.

From February 2012 to February 2013, workforce reductions were posted in ten major regions, with an average decline of 1.0 percent. Over-the-year labor force gains were displayed in six regions, while the workforce in the Lansing-East Lansing MSA was essentially unchanged.

Private Education and Government Education Boost February Payroll Jobs

The monthly survey of employers indicated that seasonally unadjusted payroll jobs in Michigan rose by 29,000 or 0.7 percent in January to 3,999,000. The most significant over-the-month job gains occurred in government (+13,000), professional and business services (+10,000), and education and health services (+9,000). February job declines were posted in trade, transportation and utilities (-4,000). Other job changes over the month were confined to gains or losses of 2,000 or less.

Within the government sector, jobs in local government education (+7,000) and state government education (+5,000) increased seasonally due to the continued return of students to colleges, universities and local schools following the holiday break.

Payroll jobs were up in 11 of the state's 14 metropolitan regions in February, with increases averaging 1.0 percent. The largest over-the-month percentage gains were displayed in the Holland-Grand Haven (+1.9%), Kalamazoo-Portage (+1.8%), and Lansing-East Lansing (+1.7%) MSAs. Jobs in the Bay City, Jackson, and Muskegon-Norton Shores MSAs were essentially unchanged in February.

Since February 2012, seasonally unadjusted payroll jobs advanced statewide by 51,000 or 1.3 percent. Manufacturing job gains (+20,000) were widespread, with over the year additions in all metro areas except the Saginaw-Saginaw Township North MSA. Jobs also rose over the year in trade, transportation and utilities (+15,000), professional and business services (+9,000), and education and health services (+8,000). Jobs in government (-6,000) and construction (-4,000) recorded the only notable declines.

Since February 2012, ten of Michigan's 14 major metropolitan regions recorded payroll job additions. Three regions, the Saginaw-Saginaw Township North, Flint, and Monroe MSAs, posted job losses over the year, while job levels were essentially unchanged in the Jackson MSA.

County Jobless Rates Little Changed Over Month, Down Over Year

Forty-two of Michigan's 83 counties recorded mostly minor jobless rate increases in February, with a median rate hike of only 0.2 of a percentage point. Unemployment rates were down slightly over the month in 28 counties and the rates in 13 counties were unchanged.

From February 2012 to February 2013, jobless rates decreased in 70 Michigan counties, recording a median rate reduction of a half percentage point. Nine counties registered mostly minor rate increases over this period, while rates were unchanged in four.

*Note: Data in this release is **not seasonally adjusted**. As a result, employment and unemployment trends may differ from previously released Michigan seasonally adjusted data.*

A breakdown of seasonally unadjusted February workforce estimates for Michigan and its 17 major labor market areas follows, along with a listing of county jobless rates for February.

Note to Editors: Please ensure that the source for state unemployment rates reads "Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget."

(more)

	<u>Feb-12</u>	<u>Jan-13</u>	<u>Feb-13</u>	% change month	% change year
ANN ARBOR MSA (Washtenaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	182,100	181,200	184,700	1.9%	1.4%
Total Employment	171,600	171,600	174,900	1.9%	1.9%
Unemployment	10,400	9,600	9,800	2.1%	-5.8%
Rate (percent)	5.7	5.3	5.3		

Contact: Mark Reffitt, DTMB Regional Economic Analyst (517) 492-5550

	<u>Feb-12</u>	<u>Jan-13</u>	<u>Feb-13</u>	% change month	% change year
BATTLE CREEK MSA (Calhoun County)					
Civilian Labor Force	63,200	62,400	63,300	1.4%	0.2%
Total Employment	58,100	57,700	58,700	1.7%	1.0%
Unemployment	5,100	4,600	4,600	0.0%	-9.8%
Rate (percent)	8.1	7.4	7.3		

Contact: Leonidas Murembya, DTMB Regional Economic Analyst (517) 841-5634

	<u>Feb-12</u>	<u>Jan-13</u>	<u>Feb-13</u>	% change month	% change year
BAY CITY MSA (Bay County)					
Civilian Labor Force	51,500	51,000	51,300	0.6%	-0.4%
Total Employment	46,500	46,200	46,400	0.4%	-0.2%
Unemployment	5,000	4,800	4,900	2.1%	-2.0%
Rate (percent)	9.7	9.4	9.6		

Contact: Jeff Aula, DTMB Economic Analyst (313) 456-3144

	<u>Feb-12</u>	<u>Jan-13</u>	<u>Feb-13</u>	% change month	% change year
DETROIT-WARREN-LIVONIA MSA (Data in thousands) (Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Lapeer, Livingston, St. Clair counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	1,990	1,996	1,996	0.0%	0.3%
Total Employment	1,779	1,771	1,793	1.2%	0.8%
Unemployment	211	225	204	-9.3%	-3.3%
Rate (percent)	10.6	11.3	10.2		

Contact: Jim Rhein, DTMB Economic Analyst (313) 456-3095

	<u>Feb-12</u>	<u>Jan-13</u>	<u>Feb-13</u>	% change month	% change year
FLINT MSA (Genesee County)					
Civilian Labor Force	185,900	182,100	184,300	1.2%	-0.9%
Total Employment	167,100	164,100	166,100	1.2%	-0.6%
Unemployment	18,800	18,000	18,100	0.6%	-3.7%
Rate (percent)	10.1	9.9	9.8		

Contact: Jeff Aula, DTMB Economic Analyst (313) 456-3144

(more)

	<u>Feb-12</u>	<u>Jan-13</u>	<u>Feb-13</u>	% change month	% change year
GRAND RAPIDS - WYOMING MSA					
(Barry, Ionia, Kent, Newaygo counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	390,200	387,800	392,000	1.1%	0.5%
Total Employment	361,000	362,100	366,000	1.1%	1.4%
Unemployment	29,200	25,700	26,100	1.6%	-10.6%
Rate (percent)	7.5	6.6	6.6		

Contact: Jason Palmer, DTMB Regional Economic Analyst (517) 335-5267

	<u>Feb-12</u>	<u>Jan-13</u>	<u>Feb-13</u>	% change month	% change year
HOLLAND - GRAND HAVEN MSA					
(Ottawa County)					
Civilian Labor Force	129,100	127,900	130,300	1.9%	0.9%
Total Employment	119,300	119,300	121,500	1.8%	1.8%
Unemployment	9,800	8,600	8,700	1.2%	-11.2%
Rate (percent)	7.6	6.7	6.7		

Contact: Jason Palmer, DTMB Regional Economic Analyst (517) 335-5267

	<u>Feb-12</u>	<u>Jan-13</u>	<u>Feb-13</u>	% change month	% change year
JACKSON MSA					
(Jackson County)					
Civilian Labor Force	70,700	69,500	70,100	0.9%	-0.8%
Total Employment	64,100	63,300	63,800	0.8%	-0.5%
Unemployment	6,500	6,100	6,200	1.6%	-4.6%
Rate (percent)	9.3	8.8	8.9		

Contact: Leonidas Murembya, DTMB Regional Economic Analyst (517) 841-5634

	<u>Feb-12</u>	<u>Jan-13</u>	<u>Feb-13</u>	% change month	% change year
KALAMAZOO - PORTAGE MSA					
(Kalamazoo and Van Buren counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	161,300	157,300	160,600	2.1%	-0.4%
Total Employment	148,000	145,100	148,400	2.3%	0.3%
Unemployment	13,400	12,200	12,200	0.0%	-9.0%
Rate (percent)	8.3	7.7	7.6		

Contact: Leonidas Murembya, DTMB Regional Economic Analyst (517) 841-5634

	<u>Feb-12</u>	<u>Jan-13</u>	<u>Feb-13</u>	% change month	% change year
LANSING - EAST LANSING MSA					
(Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	235,100	230,600	235,100	2.0%	0.0%
Total Employment	217,400	213,000	217,800	2.3%	0.2%
Unemployment	17,800	17,600	17,300	-1.7%	-2.8%
Rate (percent)	7.6	7.6	7.4		

Contact: Mark Reffitt, DTMB Regional Economic Analyst (517) 492-5550

(more)

	<u>Feb-12</u>	<u>Jan-13</u>	<u>Feb-13</u>	% change month	% change year
MONROE MSA					
(Monroe County)					
Civilian Labor Force	69,400	67,800	68,500	1.0%	-1.3%
Total Employment	63,300	61,800	62,800	1.6%	-0.8%
Unemployment	6,100	6,000	5,600	-6.7%	-8.2%
Rate (percent)	8.7	8.9	8.2		

Contact: Jim Rhein, DTMB Economic Analyst (313) 456-3095

	<u>Feb-12</u>	<u>Jan-13</u>	<u>Feb-13</u>	% change month	% change year
MUSKEGON - NORTON SHORES MSA					
(Muskegon County)					
Civilian Labor Force	82,100	82,200	83,400	1.5%	1.6%
Total Employment	74,200	74,800	75,800	1.3%	2.2%
Unemployment	8,000	7,400	7,700	4.1%	-3.8%
Rate (percent)	9.7	9.0	9.2		

Contact: Jason Palmer, DTMB Regional Economic Analyst (517) 335-5267

	<u>Feb-12</u>	<u>Jan-13</u>	<u>Feb-13</u>	% change month	% change year
NILES - BENTON HARBOR MSA					
(Berrien County)					
Civilian Labor Force	71,100	69,700	70,200	0.7%	-1.3%
Total Employment	63,800	63,000	63,400	0.6%	-0.6%
Unemployment	7,300	6,700	6,800	1.5%	-6.8%
Rate (percent)	10.3	9.7	9.7		

Contact: Leonidas Murembya, DTMB Regional Economic Analyst (517) 841-5634

	<u>Feb-12</u>	<u>Jan-13</u>	<u>Feb-13</u>	% change month	% change year
SAGINAW-Saginaw Township North MSA					
(Saginaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	91,000	88,400	89,100	0.8%	-2.1%
Total Employment	82,500	80,400	80,900	0.6%	-1.9%
Unemployment	8,600	8,000	8,200	2.5%	-4.7%
Rate (percent)	9.4	9.0	9.2		

Contact: Jeff Aula, DTMB Economic Analyst (313) 456-3144

	<u>Feb-12</u>	<u>Jan-13</u>	<u>Feb-13</u>	% change month	% change year
UPPER PENINSULA LMA					
(15 counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	145,900	143,200	144,600	1.0%	-0.9%
Total Employment	130,000	128,500	129,300	0.6%	-0.5%
Unemployment	15,900	14,700	15,300	4.1%	-3.8%
Rate (percent)	10.9	10.3	10.5		

Contact: Jim Rhein, DTMB Economic Analyst (313) 456-3095

(more)

	<u>Feb-12</u>	<u>Jan-13</u>	<u>Feb-13</u>	% change month	% change year
NORTHEAST LOWER MICHIGAN (Alcona, Alpena, Cheboygan, Crawford, Iosco, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Oscoda, Otsego, Presque Isle, Roscommon counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	83,400	81,500	82,100	0.7%	-1.6%
Total Employment	71,400	70,400	70,500	0.1%	-1.3%
Unemployment	11,900	11,100	11,600	4.5%	-2.5%
Rate (percent)	14.3	13.6	14.1		

Contact: Jim Rhein, DTMB Economic Analyst (313) 456-3095

	<u>Feb-12</u>	<u>Jan-13</u>	<u>Feb-13</u>	% change month	% change year
NORTHWEST LOWER MICHIGAN (Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, Wexford counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	140,400	139,300	139,700	0.3%	-0.5%
Total Employment	123,400	123,700	123,900	0.2%	0.4%
Unemployment	17,000	15,600	15,800	1.3%	-7.1%
Rate (percent)	12.1	11.2	11.3		

Contact: Jim Rhein, DTMB Economic Analyst (313) 456-3095

	<u>Feb-12</u>	<u>Jan-13</u>	<u>Feb-13</u>	% change month	% change year
MICHIGAN (Data in thousands)					
Civilian Labor Force	4,634	4,599	4,632	0.7%	0.0%
Total Employment	4,182	4,151	4,203	1.3%	0.5%
Unemployment	452	448	429	-4.2%	-5.1%
Rate (percent)	9.8	9.7	9.3		

Contact: Jim Rhein, DTMB Economic Analyst (313) 456-3095

Note:

The table above contains **seasonally unadjusted** data for Michigan for 2013 and 2012, which should be used in comparison with data for Michigan regions or counties.

DTMB released earlier the **seasonally adjusted** February 2013 unemployment rate for Michigan (8.8 percent), which is best used for:

- Identifying recent Michigan workforce trends
- Conducting comparisons with unemployment rates for the U.S. and other states

(more)

**MICHIGAN COUNTIES RANKED BY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
FEBRUARY 2013**

1	Washtenaw County	5.3	43	Mason County	10.7
2	Kent County	6.3	44	Iron County	10.8
3	Barry County	6.3	45	Alpena County	10.9
4	Clinton County	6.6	46	Delta County	11.0
5	Isabella County	6.6	47	Osceola County	11.1
6	Kalamazoo County	6.7	48	Crawford County	11.2
7	Ottawa County	6.7	49	Luce County	11.2
8	Eaton County	6.9	50	Wayne County	11.3
9	Menominee County	7.2	51	Tuscola County	11.3
10	Calhoun County	7.3	52	Sanilac County	11.6
11	Allegan County	7.6	53	Montcalm County	11.8
12	Midland County	7.8	54	Manistee County	12.1
13	St. Joseph County	7.8	55	Otsego County	12.1
14	Ingham County	7.8	56	Antrim County	12.1
15	Monroe County	8.2	57	Chippewa County	12.2
16	Cass County	8.2	58	Ogemaw County	12.3
17	Marquette County	8.2	59	Alger County	12.3
18	Dickinson County	8.4	60	Wexford County	12.4
19	Ionia County	8.5	61	Benzie County	12.5
20	Oakland County	8.5	62	Missaukee County	12.8
21	Livingston County	8.6	63	Charlevoix County	13.0
22	Branch County	8.8	64	St. Clair County	13.0
23	Leelanau County	8.8	65	Clare County	13.1
24	Jackson County	8.9	66	Lapeer County	13.6
25	Lenawee County	9.1	67	Roscommon County	13.7
26	Grand Traverse County	9.1	68	Iosco County	13.7
27	Houghton County	9.2	69	Lake County	13.7
28	Muskegon County	9.2	70	Oceana County	14.1
29	Saginaw County	9.2	71	Gladwin County	14.4
30	Newaygo County	9.4	72	Ontonagon County	14.8
31	Bay County	9.6	73	Arenac County	14.8
32	Mecosta County	9.7	74	Emmet County	14.8
33	Hillsdale County	9.7	75	Keweenaw County	15.3
34	Berrien County	9.7	76	Schoolcraft County	16.1
35	Genesee County	9.8	77	Alcona County	17.3
36	Gratiot County	10.0	78	Oscoda County	17.7
37	Macomb County	10.0	79	Cheboygan County	18.1
38	Huron County	10.1	80	Montmorency County	18.2
39	Shiawassee County	10.2	81	Baraga County	18.7
40	Gogebic County	10.2	82	Presque Isle County	19.7
41	Van Buren County	10.5	83	Mackinac County	24.6
42	Kalkaska County	10.5			

#